(a) what were the terms of payment to the foreign contractor M/s. Zanen Verestoep;

(b) what percentage of job was executed before payment of Rs. 23.5 crores to the contractor;

(c) what action is being taken to recover the amount from the contractor;

(d) when was the contractor appointed, when was the payment made and when the contract was terminated; and

(e) what alternative action plan has been drawn Government for execution of recessional dredging project over Jigger Khali Project; and what is the time frame for execution of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) The main terms of payment to M/s. Zanen Verestoep were:—

(i) Advance payment of 10% of contract price of Phase I payable to the contractor after issue of notice to commence work;

(ii) Reimbursement of custom duties paid by the contractor for importing equipment in connection with the dredging works;

(iii) Reimbursement of customs duty was to be made in Indian Rupees; In respect of other predredging works 88% was paid in foreign currency and 12% in Indian Rupees.

(b) The contractor completed works in connection with predredging formalities such as mobilisation of dredging equipment, building dyke walls of Nayachara Island for shore disposal, laying of pipelines from the dredgers to Nayachara Island etc.

(c) A claim of Rs. 75.52 crores has been prepared by Calcutta Port Trust on M/s. Zanen Verestoep on account of loss and damages suffered by Calcutta Port Trust.

(d) The contractor was appointed on 30.6.90. They were paid in phased manner from February 1991 to August, 1992. The notice for termination of the contract was issued by Calcutta Port Trust on 20.4.93.

(e) An intensive maintenance dredger at Ballari Bar region has been planned through Dredging Corporation of India from the next fair season, 1994.

Separate authority for Road Tax Collection

4045. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to constitute a separate authority to provide road tax collection facilities and control traffic on National Highways;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the proposed manner of distribution of the amount collected, between the Centre and the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) At present, there is no proposal to constitute a separate Authority to provide road tax collection facilities and control traffic on National Highways.

कुल्लू के निकट बाईपास और पुलों का निर्माण

4046. **श्री महेश्वर सिंह:** क्या जलभूतल परिवहन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या हिमाचल प्रदेश सरकार ने कुल्लू शहर के समीप राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग पर बाईपास और पुलों के निर्माण के संबंध में भारत सरकार की स्वीकृति के अनुसार सड़क निर्माण कार्य आरम्भ कर दिया है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो यह कार्य किस तिथि से आरम्भ किया गया है और यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं और यह निर्माण कार्य कब तक आरम्भ कर दिया जाएगा?

जलभूतल परिवहन मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री जगदीश टाईटलर): (क) और (ख) इस कार्य को निजी क्षेत्र की सहभागिता से कराए जाने का पता लगाया जा रहा है। अभी से यह बता पाना संभव नहीं है कि यह कार्य कब तक शुरू हो जाएगा।

नौवहन उद्योग के लिए वित्तीय संस्था

4047. **श्री सोमपाल:**
श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह:

क्या जल–भूतल परिवहन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या नौवहन उद्योग ने सरकार से इस उद्योग को वित्त मुहैया कराने के लिए एक नई वित्तीय संस्था गठित करने का अनुरोध किया है;